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The Coins from Ḥorbat 'Ofrat

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Sixteen coins were found in the excavations of Ḥorbat 'Ofrat (see Alexandre, this volume), two of which were unidentifiable (Fig. 1; see Catalogue, below). Robert Kool identified the Islamic coins.[1]

Contexts of the Coins

The identified coins from stratified contexts include three Hellenistic coins (Nos. 1, 3, 4), deriving from a Hellenistic context (L130A; an accumulation of broken storage jars); one Byzantine coin from a Byzantine context (L168); and Mamlūk coins found in stratified contexts. Additionally, three coins in Mamlūk contexts were Roman and Byzantine residual coins (Nos. 6, 8, 10).

One coin was found in a cooking pot set in a small purposely dug hollow between two stone paving slabs (L168). The coin (Reg. No. 1169) is unidentifiable; however, based

Fig. 1. Coins.

[1] The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories headed by Victoria Nosikovsky and Ilya Reznitsky, and were photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA photography studio.

CATALOGUE[i]

Cat. No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
Autonomous under Antiochus IV (175–164 BCE)												
1	1083	130A	1.75	15	↑	Jugate head of the Dioscuri r.	[- - -] Parallel cornucopia	168–164 BCE	ʻAkko-Ptolemais	Cf. Kadman 1961:94–95, No. 11 *CHL*:8, No. 64		153371
Demetrius III (97/6–88/7 BCE)												
2*	1071	Dumps	5.41	19	↑	Radiate, diademed head r.	ΒΑÇ ΙΛΕΩÇ ΔḤΜḤṬΡΟΥ (sic)/ ΘΕΟΥ/[ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡ] ΟΣ /ÇΩΤΗΡΟΣ] Hermes stg. l. on square base; holding palm and caduceus		Damascus	*SC* II:593, No. 2456		153376
Unclear Seleucid ruler												
3	1085	130A	1.27	11	↑	Diademed head r.	[- - -] Palm tree; in fields: Ξ–[·]		Tyre	Cf. *SC* II:180, No. 1676.4	Demetrius I? (Year 160? = 153/2? BCE)	153372
4	1068	130A	1.47	11 × 13	↗	Same	[ΒΑΣ]ΙΛḘΩ̣(Σ)–[- - -] Same; no letters in fields	198–164 BCE	Same	Cf. *SC* I:411, No. 1081	Remains of casting channel	153370
5	1073	Dumps	1.55	12	↑?	Same	[- - -] Same; in fields: Δ–[·]	149/8 or 139/8 BCE	Same	Cf. *SC* II:242, No. 1838.1		153378
ROMAN PROVINCIAL Trajan (98–117 CE)												
6*	1074	133A	14.96	25	↑	[- - -] Laureate head r.	ΣΕ[ΠΙ]ΦΩ/ΡḤṆΩN Within wreath		Sepphoris	Cf. *CHL*:68, No. 1		153373

[i] All the coins are bronze/copper. They are listed chronologically, according to types. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
Commodus (177–192 CE)												
7*	1072	Dumps	2.55	15	↑	KOMOΔO[·]–[ANT]ONINO Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust r., seen from rear	[- - -] Tyche seated l. on rock turning backward		Adraa	*CHL*:145, No. 7		153377
Third–Fourth c. CE												
8	1069	113	0.79	9 × 15	↑	IM CC M AV[- - -] Bust r.	CLEME[NTIA- - -] Two stg. figures (one visible)	Last 3rd of 3rd c.				153367
9	1157	168	1.07	11	↓	[- - -]IVS PF AVG Pearl-diademed, draped bust r.	[- - -] Victory advancing l., dragging captive and holding trophy	383–395		Cf. *LRBC* 2: 89, No. 2184		153374
Anastasius I (491–518 CE), half *follis*												
10*	1048	125	9.52	25	↑	[- - -] Diademed, cuirassed bust r., with paludamentum	K Above; to l., cross; to r.: Є beneath: є in ґ.: CON	507–512	Constantinople	Cf. *MIBE*:88, No. N32		153365
MAMLŪKS Al- Nāṣir Nāṣir Muḥammad, 3rd Reign (AH 709–741/1310–1341 CE), *fals*												
11	1060	126	2.69	18		[- - -] الملك الناصر / [- - -]	[- - -] ضرب بدمشق / [- - -]		Dimashq	Cf. Balog 1964:157, No. 246		153369
Al-Ashraf Shaʿbān II Nāṣir al-Dīn AH 764–778/1363–1377 CE, *fals*												
12	1028	114	1.94	17		Center : حسن \ بن Around: [السلطان الملك الا[شرف شعبان]	Center: [- - -]		Dimashq	Balog 1964:221, No. 458		153368
13	1168	Dumps	2.82	20		[- - -]الملك الا[- - -	Illegible	1310–1370			Unclear ruler	153375
14	1009	101	2.69	16 × 18		[Border: circular line in circle of dots]	Chalice?	14th c.			Same	153366

upon the module and shape of flan, it probably dates to the later part of the fourth century CE. Alongside the cooking pot was a coin (No. 9) issued by either Arcadius, Theodosius I or Honorius and dating to 383–395 CE. Interestingly, a similar phenomenon of a cooking pot with money in it was identified some 200 m from Coin No. 9 in the 2008 season (Alexandre 2018:23). In that excavation season, the cooking pot held three worn coins. Unlike the 2013 season, wherein only one coin of the fourth and fifth centuries CE was identified (and the date of Reg. No. 1169 was guessed to be within that period), in the 2008 season, 19 of the 25 identified coins dated to the fourth and fifth centuries CE (Bijovsky 2018:85–87, Nos. 4–22). Six coins of the same *Salus Reipublicae* type as Coin No. 9 were identified from that season (Bijovsky 2018:86–87, Nos. 9, 11–15). Therefore, the excavator's suggestion that the two cooking pots are contemporary and that these occurrences are related is quite reasonable (see Alexandre, this volume). The fact that both coins in the two cooking pots were unidentifiable, whereas many of the coins outside of them were identifiable, might indicate that their corroded state was caused by the micro-environments in the pots, or perhaps that worn coins were deliberately placed in pots.

There are additional numismatic parallels between the finds from the 2008 excavation season and the 2013 season. Coin No. 8, of the last third of the third century CE, is contemporary with Coin No. 3 (an *antoninianus* of Gallienus) of the 2008 season, and the half *follis* of Anastasius I (Coin No. 10) finds a parallel with Coin No. 23 from the 2008 season (Bijovsky 2018:88). However, neither the Hellenistic nor the Mamlūk coins from the 2013 excavation have parallels in the 2008 assemblage.

Coins of Particular Interest

Two coins, both unfortunately not contextualized as they were found in dumps using a metal detector, are noteworthy. One is a coin of Demetrius III minted at Damascus (No. 2). That king apparently was the first Seleucid monarch to enter Judea since Antiochus VII's invasion roughly 44 years earlier (Dąbrowa 2010). With his army, Demetrius participated in fighting against troops of Alexander Jannaeus, and took part in the latter's defeat at Shekhem. This happened not long before Demetrius' death in Parthian captivity in 88/7 BCE. The numerous coins of Demetrius III found in the Southern Levant seem to reflect the king's presence and military activity in the northern part of the country. Including the coin from this excavation (No. 2), 26 coins of the king have been excavated at ten sites in the Southern Levant, one of which is a stray find from Bet She'an (Table 1). All but four coins (Bet She'an, Khirbat Burnaṭ, Ḥorbat Ḥanut and Jerusalem) were found in Galilee, reinforcing the likely route of Demetrius III's forces.

Although most of these coins (n = 21) have been published, no connection has heretofore been made between the relatively high quantities of Demetrius III's coins and the king's presence in Judea. This comes in contrast to the large numbers of Cypriot Ptolemaic coins circulating in the other Galilean locales some 20 years earlier—which have been related to the "War of the Sceptres" (103–101 BCE; Gitler and Kushnir-Stein 1994–1999; Syon

Table 1. Coins of Demetrius III in Excavations in the Southern Levant

No.	IAA No.	Mint	Date (BCE)	*SC* II No.	Provenance	Publication
1	91780	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2456	ʻAkko-Ptolemais	Ariel and Fontanille 2012:139, n. 1
2	25525	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2454	Tel Anafa	Meshorer 1994:248, No. 119
3, 4	47257, 47286	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2455	Tel Anafa	Meshorer 1994:248, Nos. 117, 118
5–7	25571, 47250, U. Mich. ×1	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2456	Tel Anafa	Meshorer 1994:248, Nos. 114–116
8	75995	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2455	Bet She'an	
9	87411	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2455	Khirbat Burnaṭ	Ariel and Fontanille 2012:139, n. 1 Bijovsky 2012:152, No. 24
10	20949	Seleucia Pieria	97/6–88/7	2447	Gamla	Syon 2014:164, No. 600
11	34355	Damascus	96/5	2454	Gamla	Syon 2014:164, No. 601
12	19443	Damascus	94/3	2454	Gamla	Syon 2014:165, No. 602
13–15	17571, 18851, 20501	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2454	Gamla	Syon 2014:165, Nos. 603–605
16	18330	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2455	Gamla	Syon 2014:165, No. 606
17	18923	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2456	Gamla	Syon 2014:165, No. 609
18, 19	19111, 33517	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2456	Gamla	Syon 2014:165, Nos. 607, 609
20	77533	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2456	Ḥorbat Ḥanut	
21	105115	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2455	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter	Gitler 2003:459, No. 22
22		Seleucia Pieria	97/6–88/7	2447	Migdal	Bruno Callegher (pers. comm.)
23	153376	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2456	Ḥorbat ʻOfrat	
24, 25	148114, 148213	Damascus	95/4	2456	Susita-Hippos	Berman 2008:157, Nos. 2, 4
26	100500	Damascus	97/6–88/7	2456	Tel Tanim	

2015:165–168), and the identification of the same Cypriot Ptolemaic coins along Ptolemy IX Lathyrus' movement south to his winter camp in Gaza at the end of that same campaign.[2]

The second coin of interest is No. 7, an issue of Commodus (177–192 CE) from the mint of Adraa in the Decapolis. In the IAA Coin Department, only one other provenanced coin of Adraa is documented, from an unpublished excavation in Caesarea (IAA 65527).[3] It, too, is of the same Tyche-seated-left type unique to Commodus. Although all of the Decapolis

[2] Interestingly, no foreign coin finds have been associated with the campaigns of Demetrius III's brother, Antiochus XII, who invaded Judea a few years later, or the subsequent incursion of Aretas III. Both of these kings also struck their coins in Damascus (see Ariel and Elʻad, forthcoming).

[3] Insula W2S3 at Caesarea (Permit No. G-6/1993) was excavated by Yosef Porath; the coins were processed by Gabriela Bijovsky.

mints have coins which crossed the Jordan river to the west, the two coins so far known from Adraa make that mint among the least known in the numismatic record west of the Jordan. Despite its century-long minting, Adraa appears to have produced a very small number of coins.

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